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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, July 19, 2013

Utah State University

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## Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University

**Proposed Title:** Women and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate

**School or Division or Location:** College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**Department(s) or Area(s) Location:** Center for Women and Gender

**Recommended Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) Code<sup>1</sup> (for new programs):** 05.0207

**Proposed Beginning Date (for new programs):**

**Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:** 05/03/2013

**Proposal Type (check all that apply):**

R401-5		R401-6	
<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>		<i>Items submitted will be reviewed by OCHE. If there are any issues, the proposal will be returned for clarification/correction. If no issues, the proposal will be returned with a note of approval and the request will be placed on the General Consent Calendar of the next Regents' agenda.</i>	
Section #	Item	Section #	Item
4.1.5.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Minor*	6.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program
5.1.1.1	<input type="checkbox"/> New Emphasis on an Existing Degree*	6.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Unit
5.1.2	<input type="checkbox"/> Certificate of Proficiency Not Eligible for Financial Aid		
5.1.3	<input type="checkbox"/> Out-of-Service Area Delivery of Programs		
5.1.4	<input type="checkbox"/> Name Change of Existing Programs		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Transfer		
5.1.5	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Restructure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Consolidation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Discontinuation		
5.1.6	<input type="checkbox"/> Program Suspension		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Creation		
5.1.7	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Transfer		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Unit Consolidation		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Center		
5.1.8	<input type="checkbox"/> New Institute		
	<input type="checkbox"/> New Bureau		
5.1.9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Graduate Certificate		

\*Requires "Section VI: Program Curriculum" of Abbreviated Template

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature**

**Date:** 06/21/13

**Printed Name:** Dr. Laurens H. Smith, Jr.

<sup>1</sup> CIP codes must be recommended by the submitting institution. For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

**Program Request - Abbreviated Template**  
**Utah State University**  
**Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies**

**Section I: Request**

The Center for Women and Gender at Utah State University requests approval to offer a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies effective spring 2013.

**Section II: Need**

The proposed Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies is being requested to meet the needs of both students who are pursuing graduate education in various disciplines and intend to pursue advanced work with women and gender issues and students who have received a bachelor's degree and intend to continue advanced post-baccalaureate study in women and gender issues for career or personal development purposes. The majority of students who would pursue this certificate are those who will go on to teach at the collegiate level and seek preparation to teach women and gender studies affiliated courses, those who will work in student affairs at educational institutions, or those who will enter the non-profit/public service sector working with issues related to women and gender. As graduate women and gender studies programs proliferate within the United States, job descriptions relevant to the fields previously listed (i.e., student affairs, non-profit organizations, public service organizations, academic professorships) that have a gender focus are increasingly requesting a graduate certificate or master's degree in women and gender studies as a preferred or minimum qualification for the position. By implementing a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies, Utah State University will thereby be providing these students with more opportunities for job credentials.

Graduate students ranging across a variety of disciplines have expressed interest in a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies. Currently, a core group of graduate students in disciplines that include education, English, social work, natural resources, and photography would apply for a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies upon its approval. Additionally, students from sociology and family and consumer development have expressed interest in a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies, and at least one student has expressed interest in returning to Utah State University to pursue a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies. High enrollment in the newly developed Feminist Theories (offered spring 2012) and Feminist Research Methods (offered fall 2013) special topics courses also speaks to the interest in such a program. Students in these courses have expressed the need for a centralized study for women and gender at the graduate level, and believe there to be a lack of study in this area that a Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies program can fill. While they state they are grateful for the opportunity to take discipline-specific courses that have a gender focus, they also comment that approaching the topic of gender from a unified and specific feminist theoretical and epistemological standpoint, consistent with a women and gender studies program, provides insight that is not necessarily attainable in discipline-specific courses. The proposed certificate will also provide graduate students with skills in conducting interdisciplinary research. With current trending funds favoring interdisciplinary work, such experience could prove very valuable to graduate students.

In establishing the proposed certificate, the needs of not only current but also potential future graduate students can be met. Potential graduate students who are particularly interested in studying issues of women and gender will oftentimes choose institutions that offer a graduate certificate in women and gender

studies to complement their studies in their home departments. Such students will consult resources such as the National Women's Studies Association (NWSA) directory of programs. By appearing in such a directory, Utah State University can potentially reach a more broad and diverse pool of potential graduate students. As such, by establishing the proposed certificate, which will be the only Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies program in the USHE system, Utah State University will provide a unique opportunity to its current and future students, and will potentially recruit a more diverse graduate student body.

Developing the proposed Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies will also allow Utah State University to remain on par with Board of Trustee-approved and Carnegie peer institutions outside of the state of Utah. Eight of the thirteen institutions in Utah State University's Board of Trustee-approved peer institution group have existent graduate certificate or graduate minor programs in some variation of the women and gender's field (women and gender studies; women's studies; feminist studies; women, gender, and sexuality studies; etc.) (see Appendix A). Forty-four of the ninety-eight institutions that are Utah State University's Carnegie peer institutions offer graduate certificate or graduate minor programs in women and gender studies (see Appendix B), and thirty-six of the sixty-seven peer land grant institutions in the United States also offer such a program (see Appendix C).

The proposed Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies aligns with Utah State University's mission "to be one of the nation's premier student-centered land-grant and space-grant universities by fostering the principle that academics come first, by cultivating diversity of thought and culture, and by serving the public through learning, discovery, and engagement." The core of women and gender studies curricula focuses on developing diversity of thought through learning about a variety of cultures and identities in ways that encourage public service and civic engagement.

### **Section III: Institutional Impact**

With this graduate certificate, the Center for Women and Gender expects a higher enrollment in the women and gender studies program courses offered at the graduate level, as well as an increase in the number of students who enroll in graduate level women and gender studies-approved elective courses. As the Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies is designed to complement students' home fields of study, the Center for Women and Gender does not anticipate that the proposed certificate will have any adverse effects on any programs at the institution. The certificate will be housed in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS) as part of the interdisciplinary women and gender studies program that is a component of the Center for Women and Gender. The Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies will build upon the existent undergraduate women and gender studies program, which is a program consisting of an undergraduate minor and area studies certificate, now offered in both face-to-face and online formats, an eventual goal for the Graduate Certificate Women and Gender Studies. The proposed program will not require faculty/staff changes, or new or modified facilities.

### **Section IV: Finances**

No negative financial impact will incur from the creation of a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies.

## **Section V: Program Curriculum**

**\*\*\*THIS SECTION OF THE ABBREVIATED TEMPLATE REQUIRED FOR EMPHASES AND MINORS ONLY\*\*\***

### **Program Description**

The Women and Gender Studies Program provides a broad base of study that addresses the intersecting issues of gender, age, race, ethnicity, class, regionalism, nationalism, and sexual identity as they affect women and men. Traditional disciplines are reexamined through the lens of gender, introducing students to new scholarship on gender and expanding their understanding of the differential experiences between and within the genders.

As an interdisciplinary academic program, Women and Gender Studies is unique at Utah State University in bringing together women and men of all ethnicities and sexual identities to explore the many ways in which gender influences our lives and world views. Each semester, WGS courses are taught by faculty members from a variety of disciplines, and new special topics courses are offered frequently. Courses focus on the role of gender in human culture, examining the dynamics of sex roles and gender ideals, both historically and in the present. WGS courses engage in the study of femininities and masculinities from many perspectives and disciplines, as well as the social forces that construct these gender identities.

Graduate students desiring to explore WGS in-depth may want a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies. Additionally, students may desire to enroll as a nonmatriculated graduate student at Utah State University for the purpose of attaining a Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies. To complete the graduate certificate, students must complete 12 graduate-level credits from WGS-approved courses, including a 3-credit Feminist Theories course and a 3-credit Feminist Research Methods course, both of which are currently being offered as special topics courses. Students must also earn a grade point average of 3.0 in these courses to successfully complete the graduate certificate.

## Program Requirements

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses	WGS 6910	Feminist Theories	3
	WGS 6920	Feminist Research Methods	3
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6</b>
Elective Courses		WGS-Approved Elective 1	3
		WGS-Approved Elective 2	3
		<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Total Number of Credits</b>			<b>12</b>

## All Program Courses

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
Required Courses	WGS 6910	Feminist Theories	3
	WGS 6920	Feminist Research Methods	3
Elective Courses	ART 6900	Critical Theory and Contemporary Issues	3
	ARTH 6770 (will become 5770)	Graduate Gender Issues in Art	3
	BIOL 6750*	Special Topics: Women in Science	3
	ENGL 5300*	Special Topics: Literature, Arts, and Culture	3
	ENGL 5320*	Special Topics: Literature, Politics, and Society	3
	ENGL 5340*	Special Topics: Literature, Science, and Environment	3
	ENGL 6330*	Topics in Literary Studies	3
	ENGL/HIST 6700*	Special Topics: Folklore Theory and Method	3
	ENVS 6900*	Special Topics: Gender/Social Justice and Environments	3
	FCHD 5550*	Interdisciplinary Workshop	1-3
	FCHD 6070/7070	Family Theories	3
	FCHD 6200*	Topical Seminar in Family Relations	3
	FCHD 6210/7210	Cultural Diversity in Families	3
	FCHD 6220/7220	Interpersonal Family Relationships	3
	FCHD 6230/7230	Family and Social Policy	3
	FCHD 6530/7530	Development in Adolescence	3
	FCHD 6910/7910	Parenting	3
	FCHD 6920/7920	Aging	3
	FCHD 7900*	Topical Seminar in Family, Consumer, and Human Development	1-3
	HEP 5000	Race, Culture, Class, and Gender Issues in Health	3
	JCOM 6400*	Special Topics: Mass Media Criticism	3
	JCOM/WGS 6410	Gender and the Mass Media	3
	SOC 5650	Developing Societies	3

	Course Prefix & Number	Title	Credit Hours
	SPCH 5000*	Studies in Speech Communication	3
	SW 6550	Advanced Practice with Victims and Perpetrators of Family Violence	3
	TEAL 6020/7020	Foundations and Change in Early Childhood Education	3
	WGS 6900	Directed Reading in Women and Gender Studies	1-3

\* Denotes Special Topics courses that will count toward the Graduate Certificate in Women and Gender Studies when taught with a gender-focus

\*\*As departmental curricula evolve, the list of WGS-Approved graduate-level electives will be updated each semester

\*\*\*If graduate students take other courses in which 50% of the course content or graded work has a gender-focus, they will be able to contact the director of the Center for Women and Gender and create a contract to accept that coursework toward the graduate certificate

### New Courses to Be Added in the Next Five Years

Semester 1	Course Prefix and Number	Course Title
	WGS 4910/6910	Feminist Theories
	WGS 4920/6920	Feminist Research Methods

### Student Application Procedures

Students will apply and be admitted to the Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies program on a rolling basis. Before students can be admitted to the program they must first be accepted into another graduate degree program or as a nonmatriculated graduate student at Utah State University. To apply for the program students must meet with the Director or Program Coordinator of the Center for Women and Gender and complete the appropriate paperwork for both the Center and the Registrar's Office. Upon completing the requirements of the program, students will once again meet with the Director or Program Coordinator to finalize the paperwork for their programs of study. Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 in their women and gender studies courses to successfully complete the graduate certificate.

### Program Schedule

Requirements for the proposed Graduate Certificate of Women and Gender Studies may be completed in any order. A sample schedule is below.

Semester	Course Prefix and Number	Course Title
Fall 1	WGS 6920	Feminist Research Methods
Spring 1	WGS 6910	Feminist Theories
Fall 2	-	WGS-Approved Elective 1
Spring 2	-	WGS-Approved Elective 2

## Appendix A

### Women and Gender Studies Programs at Approved Peer Institutions

University	U. Minor	U. Major	G. Certificate/Minor	Master's	Ph.D.
Colorado State University	X	-	X	-	-
Kansas State University (Incl. in 7-18-11 minutes)	X	X	X	-	-
Montana State University	X	-	-	-	-
New Mexico State University	X	X	X	-	-
Oregon State University	X	X	X		-
University of Alaska, Fairbanks	X	-	-	-	-
University of Arizona	X	X	X	X	X
University of California, Davis	X	X	X	-	-
University of Idaho	X	-	-	-	-
University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Incl. in 7-18-11 minutes)	X	X	X	-	-
University of Nevada, Reno	X	X	X	X	-
University of Wyoming	X	X	X	-	-
Washington State University	X	X	-	-	-



## **Appendix B**

### **Carnegie Peer Institutions with a Women and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate/Minor Program (44 of 98 Institutions)**

Auburn University	Saint Louis University	University of Maryland, Baltimore County
Bowling Green State University	San Diego State University	University of Memphis
Duquesne University	Southern Illinois University, Carbondale	University of Missouri, St. Louis
Florida Atlantic University	Southern Methodist University	University of Nevada, Las Vegas (on hold)
Florida International University	SUNY at Binghamton	University of Nevada, Reno
George Mason University	Syracuse University	University of North Carolina, Greensboro
Howard University	Temple University	University of North Dakota
Kansas State University	Texas Tech University	University of Rhode Island
Lehigh University	The University of Alabama	University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee
Loyola University Chicago	The University of Montana	University of Wyoming
Miami University, Oxford	The University of Texas, El Paso	West Virginia University
Northeastern University	The University of Texas, San Antonio	Wright State University
Northern Illinois University	University of Akron	
Ohio University	University of Colorado, Denver	
Old Dominion University	University of Maine	
Portland State University		
Rutgers University		

## **Appendix C**

### **U.S. Land Grant Institutions with a Women and Gender Studies Graduate Certificate/Minor Program (36 of 67 Institutions)**

Auburn University	Purdue University	North Carolina State University
University of Arizona	Iowa State University	Ohio State University
University of California, Davis	Kansas State University	Oregon State University
University of Connecticut	Louisiana State University	Pennsylvania State University
University of Florida	Michigan State University	University of Rhode Island
University of Georgia	University of Minnesota	University of Tennessee
University of Hawaii	Mississippi State University	Texas A&M University
University of Illinois, Urbana- Champaign	University of Missouri, Columbia	Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
University of Kentucky	University of Nebraska, Lincoln	West Virginia University
University of Maine	University of Nevada, Reno	University of Wisconsin, Madison
University of Maryland, College Park	Rutgers University	University of Wyoming
University of Massachusetts, Amherst	New Mexico State University	
	Cornell University	

## Appendix D

### Women and Gender Studies Programs at Regionally Similar Institutions

University	U. Minor	U. Major	G. Certificate/Minor	Masters	Ph.D.
Arizona State University	X	X	X	-	X
Brigham Young University	X	-	-	-	-
Boise State University	X	-	-	-	-
Southern Utah University	X	-	-	-	-
University of Utah	X	X	-	-	-
Utah Valley University	X	-	-	-	-
Weber State University	X	-	-	-	-

## Appendix E

### Women's Studies Graduate Certificate Requirements at Peer Institutions

University	Credit Hrs.	Required Core Courses
Colorado State University	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Women's Studies Seminar (3)</li> <li>Women's Studies Independent Study (3-6) or</li> <li>Women's Studies Thesis (3-6)</li> </ul>
Kansas State University	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Feminist Thought and Practice (3)</li> </ul>
New Mexico State University	9 Masters 12 PhD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feminist Theory (3)</li> </ul>
Oregon State University	12 Masters 18 PhD	None Specified
University of Arizona	12	Two of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feminist Theories I (3)</li> <li>Feminist Theories II (3)</li> <li>Feminist &amp; Related Social Movements (3)</li> <li>Feminist Knowledge Production (3)</li> </ul>
University of California, Davis	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feminist Theory (3)</li> <li>Feminist Research Methods (3)</li> </ul>
University of Nebraska-Lincoln	9 Masters 12 PhD	None Specified
University of Nevada, Reno	12	None Specified
University of Wyoming	12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feminist Theories &amp; Methods (3)</li> </ul>